GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:434
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2005
DEATH OF HAJ PILGRIMS
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether about 35 Indian Haj pilgrims died in Saudi Arabia recently due to lack of medical facilities and inadequate supply of food and water ;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto including action taken/ proposed to be taken for better arrangements for the pilgrims in future?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a), (b) & (c): No Indian Haj pilgrim died in Saudi Arabia recently due to lack of medical facilities or inadequate supply of food and water. However, according to the latest information available, 207 Indian pilgrims died of natural causes while 9 pilgrims died in accidents. The Indian Medical Mission in Saudi Arabia is adequately staffed with doctors and para-medical personnel, and equipped with full-fledged dispensaries and medicines to attend to the medical needs of the pilgrims.